



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Lorene Anelon
President
Iliamna Village Council
P.O. Box 286
Iliamna, AK 99606

Dear Ms. Anelon:

I received the Iliamna Village Council Resolution 2012-013 in an email from Lisa Reimers on July 18, 2012. The Village Council voted to request that EPA extend the public comment period for the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment from July 23, 2012 to the third week of October, 2012.

In my letter to you on July 5, 2012, I described the reasons for maintaining the July 23, 2012 due date for comments. I won't repeat them all here but will address the most compelling reason you gave for an extension and that is the commercial fishing and subsistence harvesting are active during June and July.

I am aware of the importance of the fishing season to the subsistence way of life of the Alaska Native communities, as well as to the commercial and sport fishing industries. We received requests to maintain the July 23rd date as well as requests to extend it and we carefully weighed the input we received on this issue. Many commercial fishermen and subsistence users, as well as Tribal communities said that the time allowed was adequate, and urged that we maintain the current schedule. In addition, at EPA's June public meetings on the draft assessment in six Bristol Bay communities, the preponderance of people who spoke on the timing of the comment period, requested that we maintain the July 23rd date.

To date, EPA has received over 209,000 comments and that number will continue to increase as the EPA docket center continues to process the comments it received.

We are not going to extend the comment period but EPA is available to consult with the Iliamna Village Council on the Watershed Assessment as we continue to work on it. EPA has been available and will continue to be available to consult with the Iliamna Village Council. After your Council decided to cancel the meeting we had scheduled in Iliamna on June 6th, 2012, EPA sent an email message (on May 23rd) regarding finding another time that would work for both the Agency and your Tribal Council. EPA has been waiting to hear from you regarding scheduling. If EPA is unavailable to travel to Iliamna we can work to schedule a meeting over the phone. We can receive your input during consultation, as long as it occurs in a timely manner. EPA will be working to finalize the watershed assessment after the peer review process. If you are interested in consultation or have additional questions about the draft Bristol

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Bay Watershed Assessment, please contact Mr. Rick Parkin, who is the EPA's lead coordinator for the Watershed Assessment at (206) 553-8574.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. McLerran